



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2006

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ALLEN COUPLE INDICTED FOR TAX EVASION

(Sherman, TX) An Allen, Texas couple has been indicted for failing to file federal income tax returns in the Eastern District of Texas. **JAMES VAN METER**, 56, and **ANITA VAN METER**, 54, appeared today before United States Magistrate Judge John Love for an initial appearance and arraignment.

According to the indictment, the Van Meters allegedly attempted to evade paying income taxes for the years 1999 and 2000 by failing to file income tax returns, failing to pay income taxes, and using an offshore bank account and an offshore credit/debit card to conceal their income.

It is important to note a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. A Grand Jury indictment is not evidence of guilt. If convicted, the Van Meters each face up to five years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

This case is being investigated by the Internal Revenue Service. Assistant U.S. Attorney Shamoil T. Shipchandler is prosecuting the case.

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